

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 01374 160822Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-07
FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 OES-06 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10
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O R 160745Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2109
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, QA
SUBJ: OPEC MINISTERIAL: YAMANI AND AMUZEGAR ARRIVAL STATEMENTS
AND MEDIA COVERAGE

REF: DOHA 1358, DOHA 1363, DOHA 1366
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1. FURTHER INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE ON YAMANI ARRIVAL STATEMENT INDICATES THAT HE STATED THAT SAUDI POSITION ON FREEZING PRICES RESULTED FROM RESTUDY OF CURRENT WORLD ECONOMY. YAMANI SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SAUDIS WERE WILLING A FEW MONTHS AGO TO ACCEPT A MODERATE PRICE INCREASE FURTHER STUDY OF THE SLOWDOWN IN RECOVERY CONVINCED SAUDI ARABIA TO NOW INSIST ON FREEZE. ASKED ABOUT REPORTS OF POSSIBILITY OF TWO STAGE PRICE RISE YAMANI STATED THAT SUCCESS OF NORTH SOUTH DIALOGUE ESSENTIAL TO DEVELOPING NATIONS' INTERESTS AND THAT THERE MUST BE FIRM

LINK BETWEEN OIL PRICES AND DIALOGUE AND THAT INDUSTRIAL STATES NEED ENOUGH TIME TO RESPOND TO DEMANDS OF DEVELOPING STATES, THUS THE NECESSITY OF THE FREEZE.

2. IN AIRPORT INTERVIEW BELATEDLY RELEASED BY QATAR NEWS AGENCY AMUZEGAR SAID THAT AS ALWAYS THE POSITION OF IRAN WAS MODERATE AND THAT THE KEY WORD FOR THE CONFERENCE WAS MODERATION. WHEN ASKED ABOUT PERCENTAGE OF EXPECTED PRICE RISE HE REPEATED HIS STATEMENT OF IRAN'S MODERATION AND SAID THAT IRAN WOULD PLAY ROLE OF MEDIATOR BETWEEN MAXIMIZERS AND MINIMIZERS. AMUZEGAR DID NOT REPEAT NOT GIVE A FIGURE FOR PRICE RISE PERCENTAGE DURING ARRIVAL STATEMENT.

3. QATAR RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF STATEMENTS OF ARRIVING DELEGATION HEADS GENERALLY GOOD BUT AMUZEGAR ARRIVAL STATEMENT DELAY PROBABLY CAUSED BY OVERFLOW OF COVERAGE OF OPENING CEREMONY SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL RATHER THAN TO ANY QATARI DESIGN. STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS DELEGATION HEADS ARE BEING REBROADCAST AT INTERVALS THROUGHOUT DAY WITH EXCEPTION OF YAMANI STATEMENT IN WHICH HE CALLED FOR FREEZE. THIS MAY VERY WELL BE BY DESIGN SINCE QATARI POSITION AS WELL AS POSITION OF ALL OTHER DELEGATIONS HAS BEEN THAT OIL PRICE RISE IS NECESSARY.

4. MEANWHILE PRESS DOES NOT HAVE MUCH ACCESS TO DELEGATES. EVEN QATAR'S OWN RADIO SERVICE HAS BEEN INTERVIEWING OTHER PRESS RATHER THAN DELEGATES. RADIO QATAR ITSELF HAS BROADCAST INTERVIEWS OF VOA CORRESPONDENT DOUG ROBERTS AND ABC CORRESPONDENT JOHN COOLEY.

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